

NOTES ON AUSTRALIAN AQUATIC HEMIPTERA.

(No. 1.)

BY FREDERICK A. A. SKUSE, F.L.S., Entomologist.

[Plate XI.]

THE following are descriptions of two species of fresh-water Hemiptera, found commonly in the vicinity of Sydney, and which appear to be novelties. As opportunity occurs, the author hopes to supplement them with diagnoses of further species inhabiting the fresh-water creeks and ponds of New South Wales, and, if possible, of those of the neighbouring colonies:—

Family HYDROMETRIDÆ.

Genus Hydrometra, *Fab.*

HYDROMETRA AUSTRALIS, *sp. nov.*

(Plate xi. fig. 3.)

Above black or olive-black, shining; beneath yellowish-grey with a silvery bloom. Head with two longitudinal orange-yellow lines connected on the hind margin, and an orange spot or short line before the eyes. Antennæ black; first joint about one-third the length of the whole taken together. Pronotum parallel, coniform posteriorly, bordered with an orange-yellow line, and with a longitudinal line traversing about one-sixth of its length, and two very short (sometimes indistinct) longitudinal lines anteriorly; obtusely tuberculated anteriorly. Pleuræ and coxæ striped or spotted with orange-yellow. Elytra wanting. Abdominal segments with a more or less distinct interrupted median orange-yellow line.

Length.—8 mm.

Hab.—Sydney, N.S.W.

Family LIMNOBATIDÆ.*Genus* Limnobates, *Burm.*LIMNOBATES STRIGOSA, *sp. nov.*

(Plate xi. figs. 1, 2.)

Long narrow, brown or yellowish-brown; head about the length of the thorax, subcylindrical, widened in front; eyes hemispherical, set in the sides of the head considerably behind the middle. First joint of the antennæ half the length and twice the thickness of the second. Abdomen at its widest part scarcely wider than the thorax. Tarsi black.

Length.—11 mm.*Hab.*—Sydney, and Botany Swamps, N.S.W.

Appended are brief notes of species known to occur in this country:—

Family NOTONECTIDÆ.*Genus* Corixa, *Geoff.*Three species of *Corixa* common in the ponds about Sydney.*Genus* Sigara, *Fabr.*

Two species, rather abundant.

Genus Anisops, *Spin.**Anisops australis*, Stal. Ofr. K. V. Ak. Forh. xii. 190; Stal. Eug. Resa, 267.

Several other species abundant.

Family NEPIDÆ.*Genus* Nepa, *Linn.**Nepa tristis*, Stal. Ofr. K. V. Ak. Forh. xi. 241; Eug. Resa. 266.*Hab.*—Waterloo Swamps, N.S.W.*Genus* Ranatra, *Fabr.**Ranatra filiformis*, Fabr. Skrivt. Nat. Selskal. i. 228; Ent. Syst. iv. 64; Syst. Rhyn. 108; Schneid. Neu. Mag. i. 31; H. Sch. Wanz. Ins. ix. 31, pl. 290, fig. H; Stal. Hem, Fabr. 2, 135.

Generally distributed.

Genus Belostoma, Latr.

Belostoma indica, Stoll. Pun. 34, pl. 7, fig. 4; St. Farq. et Serv. Ene. x. 272; Serv. Hist. Hem. 429; Mayr. Verh. z. b. G. Wien. xxi. 426.

Generally distributed.

Genus Diplonychus, DeLap.

Diplonychus eques, L. - Duf. A. S. E. F. 4me Sér. ii. 394; Mayr. Verh. z. b. G. Wien. xxi. 437.

Hab. Australia.

Diplonychus rusticus, Stoll. Pun. 36, pl. 7, fig. 6; Sulz. Alg. Gesch. Ins. 92, pl. 10, fig. 2; Fabr. Syst. Rhyn. 106; L. Duf. A. S. E. F. 399; Mayr. Verh. z. b. G. Wien, xxi. 438.

Generally distributed.

Genus Naucoris, Geoffr.

Occurs commonly; several species known, but none described.

*Family HYDROMETRIDÆ.**Genus Hydrometra, Fabr.*

Hydrometra cursitans, Fabr. Syst. Ent. 729; Sp. Ins. ii. 377; Mant. Ins. ii. 308; Syst. Rhyn. 259; Stal. Hem. Fabr. i. 131.

Hab. Australia.

Hydrometra australis, sp. n.

Hab. Sydney, N.S.W.

Two or three undescribed species are known.

Genus Halobates, Esch.

Halobates wüllerstorffi, Frauenf. Vehr. z. b. G. Wien, xvii. 458, pl. 12, figs. 1, 2, 6, 8, 10; Chal. Rep.

Hab. Coast of Australia; Port Jackson; Western Australia.

Halobates whiteleggei, Sk. Records Aust. Museum, Vol. i. No. 8, p. 175, pl. xxvii.

Hab. Port Jackson.

Obs.—George H. Carpenter, Asst. Naturalist to the Science and Art Museum, Dublin, has recently characterised a species, *H. regalis* (Proc. Roy. Soc. Dublin, xv. p. 144, pl. xiii. figs. 1-8), from examples obtained by Prof. A. C. Haddon off the shores of the island of Mabuig, Torres Strait, which closely resembles

H. whiteleggei; but having mutually examined specimens of each, we have ascertained that *H. regalis* is constantly much the larger insect in both sexes, and that there exist characters in the front tarsi and male genital organs which prove that Mr. Carpenter's species is sufficiently distinct to deserve a different name.

Family LIMNOBATIDÆ.

Genus *Limnobates*, *Burm.*

Limnobates strigosa, sp. n.

Apparently of wide range.

REMARKS ON A NEW *CYRIA* FROM NEW SOUTH WALES.

By FREDERICK A. A. SKUSE, F.L.S., Entomologist.

[Plate XI. figs. 5 - 10.]

COLEOPTERA.

BUPRESTIDÆ.

Cyria, *Solier.*

THE form figured (pl. xi. figs. 5 - 10) represents a new species of *Cyria* originally proposed to have been described in the present paper, but recently named by the Rev. T. Blackburn (Trans. Roy. Soc. S. Aust. xv. i. p. 41, 1892) as *C. tridens*, from a specimen received from this Museum. The series of about a dozen examples was originally obtained by the author from Mr. W. Smart, of Manly, who procured them from an amateur collector on the Richmond River, N.S.W. By some mistake Mr. Blackburn also fails to mention the locality or source from which he received the specimen from which his description was derived. Fig. 4 represents *C. imperialis*, Don., in contrast with the present insect.